

## Appendix J.

### REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE FOR THE YEAR 1912.

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 12,660 as against 9,289 in 1911 being an increase of 3,371 or 36.29 per cent. The average for the last five years is 10,223.8.

In the division of these cases into Serious and Minor Offences there appears an increase, as compared with 1911, of 692 cases or 19.31 per cent. in the former and of 2,679 cases or 46.95 per cent. in the latter.

The increase and decrease as compared with 1911 in Serious Offences are shown as follows :—

*Increase.*

Murder, - - - - -	5
Robbery, - - - - -	28
Burglary or Larceny from Dwelling, -	31
Kidnapping and Protection of Women and Children, - - - - -	16
Piracy, - - - - -	4
Unlawful Possession, - - - - -	262
Larcenies, - - - - -	400
Total, - - - - -	746

*Decrease.*

Assault with intent to rob, - - - - -	3
Other Felonies, - - - - -	51
Total, - - - - -	54

Nett Increase, - - - - - 692

2. Table I shows the number and character of the Serious and Minor Offences reported to the Police during 1911 and 1912 and number of persons convicted and discharged in connection with these Offences.

#### MURDER.

3. Sixteen murders were reported to the Police during the year as against 11 in 1911.

In connection with 8 of these reports no arrest was made; in the remaining 8 cases arrests were made. There were 4 cases in which convictions were obtained (5 persons). In 4 cases there was no conviction (13 persons).

#### MANSLAUGHTER.

4. Five cases were reported to the Police during the year as against 15 in 1911.

In one case no arrest was made and in the remaining 4 cases arrests were made. There was one case in which conviction was obtained (one man). In 3 cases there was no conviction (5 persons).

GANG ROBBERIES.

5. Eighty-two gang robberies were reported to the Police during the year as against 51 in 1911.

In 59 cases no arrest was made, in the remaining 23 cases arrests were made. There were 15 cases in which convictions were obtained (44 persons). In 8 cases there was no conviction (13 persons).

STREET AND HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.

6. Twenty-four Street and Highway Robberies were reported to the Police during the year as against 31 in 1911.

In 17 cases no arrest was made, in the remaining 7 cases arrests were made and convictions were obtained (12 persons).

ROBBERIES ON BOATS AND JUNKS.

7. Twenty-three cases were reported to the Police during the year as against 19 in 1911.

In 19 cases no arrest was made, in the remaining 4 cases arrests were made. There was one case in which conviction was obtained (2 persons) and in the other 3 cases there was no conviction (10 persons).

OTHER FELONIES.

8. Under this heading are comprised the following :—

	1912.	1911.
Arson and attempted arson, - - -	2	2
Cutting and wounding, - - -	15	12
Demanding money with menaces, - - -	8	6
Embezzlement, - - - -	31	34
Forgery, - - - -	28	16
Housebreaking, - - - -	125	157
Indecent assault and rape, - - -	2	—
Shooting with intent to murder - - -	1	—
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, - - -	3	11
Abominable Offences, - - - -	2	1
Throwing corrosive fluid, - - -	1	—
Being armed with intent to commit a felony, - - - -	—	2
Administering a drug with intent to commit a felony, - - - -	—	1
Attempting to discharge a loaded revolver with intent to do grievous bodily harm, - - -	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	218	243
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The number of cases in which convictions were obtained was 76 as against 83 in 1911.

GAMBLING.

9. Two hundred and twenty-eight Gambling Warrants were executed and convictions obtained as against 180 in 1911.

Eight were lottery cases.

PROPERTY REPORTED STOLEN AND PROPERTY RECOVERED.

10. The estimated value of property stolen during the year was \$473,476.77 as against \$256,711.32 in 1911 an increase of \$216,765.45.

The average for the five years is \$281,742.73 an increase on the average report in 1911 of \$66,424.56.

The value of property recovered and restored to owners was \$43,210.21 as against \$51,742.89 in 1911, a decrease over property recovered in the previous year of \$8,532.68.

LOST PROPERTY.

11. The following is a return showing property lost or recovered:—

Year.	Articles reported lost.	Value lost.	Articles recovered and articles found which were not reported lost.	Value found.
1912	321	\$13,587.42	54	\$1,105.48
1911	303	\$17,961.50	92	\$4,256.00

OPIUM WARRANTS.

12. One thousand six hundred and ninety-one Search Warrants for prepared opium were executed by the Police and Excise Officers of the Opium Farmer as compared with 2,110 in 1911.

In 731 cases opium was found and 1,066 persons were arrested as against 1,117 in 1911.

OPIUM DIVANS.

13. One hundred and sixteen Warrants were executed by the Police for keeping Opium Divans. In 104 cases convictions were obtained, 7 cases were discharged and in 5 cases no arrest was made.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

14. The Examiner of Weights and Measures made the following verifications:—

.....	Examined.	Correct.	Incorrect.
Foreign Scales,.....	490	490	nil.
Chinese Scales,.....	2,446	2,428	18
Yard Measures, .....	247	247	nil.
Chek Measures, .....	270	270	nil.

The following prosecutions were instituted under the Weights and Measures Ordinance:—

No. of Cases.	Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines.
18	18	\$240.00

DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

15. The following prosecutions were instituted under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance:—

No. of Cases.	Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines.
nil.	nil.	nil.

FOOD AND DRUGS ORDINANCE.

16. The following prosecutions were instituted under the Food and Drugs Ordinance:—

No. of Cases.	Convictions.	Total Amount of Fines.
2	nil.	nil.

Samples purchased and sent to Government Analyst :—

Brandy.	Whisky.	Ale.	Rum.	Gin.	Port.
4	4	6	2	2	2

All the above samples were certified to be genuine with the exception of one sample of rum. A summons was taken out but dismissed, the Magistrate holding that the certificates produced were certificates of origin. A summons was also taken out against a shop for refusing to sell a sample of brandy believed to be adulterated, this summons was also dismissed, the defence being that the purchaser had no authority to demand a sale.

MENDICANTS.

17. Forty-five beggars were dealt with by the Magistrate: 95 were sent to Canton as follows :—

How often sent away.	Canton.
Once, .....	80
Twice, .....	12
Thrice, .....	2
Four Times, .....	1
Total,.....	95

DEAD BODIES.

18. Table II shows the number of the unknown dead bodies found by the Police in the streets and elsewhere during the year.

LICENCES.

19. The following licences were issued during 1912 :—

- 1,103 Hongkong Jinrickshas.
- 50 Quarry Bay Jinrickshas.
- 345 Kowloon Jinrickshas.
- 659 Hongkong Chairs.

- 60 Hill District Chairs.
- 5,880 Drivers.
- 2,860 Chair bearers.
- 4,053 Extra drivers and Chair bearers.
- 1,173 Truck Licences.
  - 12 Private Vehicles.
  - 19 Motor cars.
  - 34 Motor cars drivers.
  - 3 Motor cycle drivers.
  - 2 Auctioneers.
  - 4 Licence to store acetone.
- 13 Billiard Tables or Bowling Alleys.
  - 2 Brewery.
  - 7 Licence to store calcium carbide.
  - 3 Licence to store Chlorate Mixture.
  - 4 Licence to store Chlorate of Potassium & other Chlorates.
  - 6 Licence to store Compressed Oxygen.
  - 9 Licence to store Detonators.
  - 3 Licence to store Dissolved Acetylene.
- 13 Distillery (Old Territories).
  - 7 Distillery (New Territories).
- 26 Licence to store Dynamite.
- 56 Licence to store Ether and Alcoholic Liquids.
  - 1 Fireworks (Manufacture).
  - 1 Gunpowder (Manufacture).
- 199 Licence to shoot and take game.
  - 14 Licence to store Gunpowder.
  - 14 Licence to store Kerosine Oil (in Godowns).
- 1,108 Licence to store Kerosine Oil (Ordinary).
  - 54 Licence to store Kerosine Oil (New Territories).
- 30 Marine Stores.
- 400 Money changers.
  - 34 Licence to store Naphtha and Benzine.
    - 4 Licence to store Naphtha and Benzine (in Garage).
    - 2 Licence to store Nitrobenzine or Oil of Mirbane.
  - 82 Pawnbrokers.
    - 8 Licence to store Petroleum in Bulk.
    - 3 Licence to store Phosphorus.
    - 6 Licence to store Rockets.
    - 2 Poison (Wholesale).
- 223 Spirit (Chinese, Old Territories).
  - 54 Spirit (Chinese, New Territories).
  - 27 Licence to store Sulphuric Acid and Nitric Acid.
- 7,556 Hawkers.

DOGS ORDINANCE.

20. 1,695 dogs were licensed during 1912.

162 watch dogs were licensed free of charge.

110 stray dogs were impounded, 16 were ransomed, 88 were sent to the Dogs' Home and 6 were destroyed.

ARMS ORDINANCE.

21. Five licences to import and deal in arms and two to deal in sporting arms and ammunition were issued during 1912. During the whole year a Proclamation has been in force prohibiting the export of warlike stores from the Colony. The following arms and ammunition were confiscated during the year, *viz.*:—

Ninety-two rifles, 2 incomplete rifles, 340 revolvers, 153 pistols, 11 shot guns, 147,115 rounds ammunition mixed, 19 bayonets, daggers, etc., 83 magazines, 2,190 empty cylinders, 2 holster, 4 bandoliers, 40 springs, 39 cleaning rods, 15 sets loading tools, 91 boxes primers, 1,044 boxes percussion caps, 10 clips, 80 blank ammunition, 13 muskets, 1 bullet mould, 17 boxes detonators, 48 lbs. gunpowder, 391 sticks dynamite, 80 bags saltpetre and 195 bags sulphur.

EDUCATION.

22. During the year 8 Europeans and 29 Indians obtained certificates for knowledge of Chinese, 2 Europeans obtained certificates for Hindustani, 13 Indians and 3 Chinese obtained certificates for English.

IDENTIFICATION BY FINGER IMPRESSIONS.

23. 501 persons were identified as having previous convictions against them. This number is 234 more than during the year 1911.

189 identifications were those of criminals who had returned from banishment.

CONDUCT.

24. The conduct of the European Contingent (average strength 164) was good. The total number of reports against them was 47 as against 38 in 1911. There were 10 reports for being drunk or under the influence of drink as against 4 in 1911, 2 for sleeping on duty—same as last year—and 5 for neglect of duty as against 3.

The conduct of the Indian Contingent (average strength 462) was good. There were 358 reports as against 312 for the preceeding year. For drunkenness there were 21 as against 19, for disorderly conduct 23 as against 15, for neglect of duty 35 as against 31, for absence from duty 42 as against 39, for gossiping and idling on duty 97 as against 75, and for sleeping on duty 34 as against 31. 234 men had no report.

Nine Indian Constables were convicted by the Police Magistrate (two dismissed from the Force): 2 for assault, 1 for neglect of duty, 3 for disorderly conduct and assault and 3 for larceny.

The behaviour of the Chinese Contingent (average strength 404) was fair. There were altogether 1,105 reports as against 1,311 in 1911. There was no report for drunkenness (same as last year), 152 for sleeping on duty as against 178, 22 for disorderly conduct as against 20, and 396 for minor offences as against 430. Eleven Constables were convicted by the Police Magistrate (six dismissed) for the following offences:—1 for behaving in a threatening manner, 2 for misconduct, 1 for giving false testimony, 2 for bribery, 1 for pawning Government property, 1 for assault, 2 for neglect of duty and 1 for being found in a common gambling house. 167 men of this Contingent were not reported during the year.

The seamen, coxswains, engineers and stokers (average strength 143) had 146 reports as compared with 154 for last year. For drunkenness there was no report (same as last year), and 83 for absence from station and late for duty as against 113 in the previous year. Two seamen were convicted by the Police Magistrate 1 for assault and 1 for receiving a bribe and dismissed the Force. 88 had no report recorded against them.

#### REWARDS.

25. One Inspector was granted a medal for long and faithful service, one European Sergeant was granted a medal for courage and presence of mind on the occasion of the attempt on His Excellency's life, one European Sergeant was commended by His Excellency the Governor for prompt and intelligent action in connection with a case of kidnapping, one European Lance Sergeant for his skill and perseverance in restoring life by artificial respiration, one Lance Sergeant for good work done in connection with a robbery case and one Constable for prompt and plucky action in saving a woman who fell into the harbour.

One Indian Constable was granted a medal for courage and presence of mind on the occasion of the attempt on His Excellency's life, one Indian Lance Sergeant was granted a reward for smart capture of a man in possession of arms, and one Indian Constable was highly commended and granted a medal for plucky act in descending and diving in a well and attempting to rescue a Chinese.

One Chinese Sergeant was granted a medal for prompt and smart capture of four burglars, one Chinese Sergeant was commended by His Excellency the Governor for good work done in connection with a robbery case, one Chinese Constable was commended and granted a medal for plucky act in diving down a well and rescuing a boy, one Chinese Constable was commended and granted a reward for prompt and intelligent action, one Chinese Constable for zeal and intelligence in effecting the arrest of a burglar, one Chinese Constable for prompt and smart arrest of a man who committed larceny from the person of an English lady, one Chinese Constable for smart and prompt action in effecting the arrest of a man on a charge of larceny who assaulted him and in the struggle both fell into the

harbour, and one Chinese Constable was commended for smart capture of a robber.

HEALTH.

26. Admission to Hospital during last three years were as follows :—

Nationality.	1910.		1911.		1912.	
	Average Strength.	Admissions.	Average Strength.	Admissions.	Average Strength.	Admissions.
Europeans, .....	120	76	126	73	164	104
Indians, .....	358	380	372	356	462	300
Chinese, .....	525	120	547	153	547	180

Return of Police treated in Government Civil Hospital for Fever or Dengue Fever from the 1st January to 31st December, 1912 :—

Nationality.	Old Territories.		New Territories.	
	Average Strength.	Treated.	Average Strength.	Treated.
Europeans, .....	150	99	14	5
Indians, .....	361	262	101	38
Chinese, .....	508	169	39	11

In addition to cases treated in Hospital for Fever or Dengue Fever the cases treated for Fever in the various stations in the New Territories without being removed to Hospital were :—

Europeans 8, Indians 40, Chinese 14.

#### EXECUTIVE STAFF.

27. The Deputy Superintendent (Captain F. W. Lyons) retired on pension on 14th January. Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent, was appointed Deputy Superintendent on probation for one year from the 14th January, Mr. T. H. King acting as Assistant Superintendent. Mr. D. Burlingham was appointed Probationer and arrived in the Colony on 6th January.

#### POLICE FORCE.

28. Forty-one Europeans were engaged during the year, ten were recruited from England and thirty-one enlisted locally. Table III shows changes in the personnel of the Force during the year, and Table IV the strength, expenditure and revenue for the past ten years.

C. MCI. MESSER,  
*Captain Superintendent of Police*

*25th March, 1913.*

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#### ANNEXE A.

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##### *Report on the Water Police.*

During the year the Police Launches have been strengthened by the addition of a new cruising launch, now No. 4, which was bought from Messrs. Macdonald & Co. on September 3rd and commenced its commission on the 24th idem and was fitted with a small motor boat.

2. A redistribution of the patrols was made as follows :—

- No. 1.—Mirs Bay and the included water to Fung Head.
- No. 2.—From Fung Head to Tai Tam Head taking in all waters in Port Shelter, Junk Bay, Kowloon Bay and South of Hongkong to Taitam.
- No. 3.—From Taitam Head taking in Lema and all the southern waters of Lantao to Tai O on the west side and Ma Wan on the east side.
- No. 4.—Chin Wan and the north coast of Lantao to Tai O and all Deep Bay and northern waters.

3. The small launch (formerly No. 4) became No. 8; a new propeller was fitted to this launch and has considerably increased her speed.

4. A simple system of signalling by day and night with both semaphore and morse was introduced between the cruising launches and the various coast police stations, all of which have been supplied with hand flags and a flashing lamp. This works satisfactorily and saves a lot of boatwork and should go on steadily improving with its general practice.

5. The crews of the cruising launches both European and Chinese were practised at a Target with Maxim gun at a range between 600 and 1,000 yards and rifle between 250 and 400 yards. All crews have now completed these practices which should be carried out quarterly. The Chinese crews having now got over their initial nervousness, marked improvement may be expected.

6. No. 2 Launch has been fitted with an upper bridge which improves her efficiency as a sea-boat.

7. Both launches Nos. 1 and 2 have been completely retubed during the year and are now in a good state of repair and should require very little refit during this year from "fair wear and tear".

8. During the year I made 54 visits to the Water Police Station, 43 Harbour patrols, 7 all day patrols in cruising launches carrying out firing, etc., 3 night patrols and 4 quarterly inspections. The European members of the force were examined in Regulations from the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and Rules of the Road while the Chinese coxswains were questioned in handling launches and Rules of the Road.

C. W. BECKWITH, Commander, R.N.,  
*Assistant Supt. Water Police*

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ANNEXE B.

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*Report on the Police School.*

School was held on 85 days in the course of the year.  
Attendance:—

(a.) At the Magistracy, - - -	5,904
(b.) At No. 8 Station, - - -	820
Total, - - -	<u>6,724</u>

Giving an average daily attendance of 79.

2. Units attending School were composed of :—

E. P. C.'s,	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
I. P. C.'s,	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
C. P. C.'s,	-	-	-	-	-	-	248
Gaol Staff,	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>504</u>

3. At the Examinations held during the year the following men obtained the necessary marks to receive exemption from attendance at school :—

E. P. C.'s Nos.	22, 120, 119, 60, 118, 121, 80, 131, 104, 125, 22, 136, 132, 3, 134, 127.	
E. P. C.'s, Total,	-	16
I. P. C.'s Nos.	629, 631, 883, 621, 872, 836, 648, 635, 679, 624, 511, 709.	
I. P. C.'s, Total,	-	12
C. P. C.'s Nos.	242, 986, 170, 308.	
C. P. C.'s, Total,	-	4
Gaol Staff Nos.	90, 22, 70, 77, 78, 97, 43.	
Gaol Staff, Total,	-	7
		<u>39</u>

4. Mr. A. W. Grant was temporarily transferred to the Technical Institute in March and I have taken his place.

5. Mr. A. R. Sutherland of Queen's College has been Assistant Master from April 16th.

R. J. BIRBECK, M.A., (Cantab),  
*Master in Charge.*

31st December, 1912.

Table I.

RETURN OF SERIOUS AND MINOR OFFENCES REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED DURING THE YEARS 1911 AND 1912.

	Serious Offences.												Minor Offences												Total of all cases.	
	Robbery with Violence and Assault with intent to rob.		Burglaries.		Larcenies and Larcenies in Dwelling Houses.		Other Felonies.		Assaults and Disorderly Conduct.		Gambling.		Kidnapping.		Women and Girls Protection Ordinance.		Unlawful Possession.		Drunkenness.		Nuisances.		Miscellaneous Offences.			
	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.		
1911.																										
Europeans and Americans,	...	...	...	6	8	1	4	2	2	46	45	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	13	2	1	33	34	2	105
Indians, .....	...	...	...	12	8	5	5	1	5	20	15	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	...	2	7	9	1	53
Chinese, .....	120	38	38	2,674	805	337	260	66	58	537	760	144	354	2,407	137	41	32	28	15	15	...	973	3,696	4,107	625	9,131
Total, .....	120	38	38	2,692	821	343	269	69	65	603	820	160	355	2,407	143	41	32	28	36	35	2	976	3,736	4,150	628	9,289
1912.																										
Europeans and Americans,	...	...	...	13	6	7	5	5	2	52	54	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	26	...	3	34	28	15	133
Indians, .....	...	...	...	12	6	7	4	3	1	25	22	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	...	2	22	24	1	77
Chinese, .....	145	50	41	3,078	1,147	343	218	63	51	675	957	135	538	2,950	204	35	26	38	18	18	...	1,595	5,384	7,632	626	12,450
Total, .....	145	50	41	3,103	1,159	357	227	71	54	752	1,033	146	538	2,950	204	35	26	38	55	55	...	1,600	5,440	7,754	642	12,660



Table III.

Return showing the Establishments and Casualties in the Force, 1912.

Nationality.	Establishment of the Force.	Enlistments.	Deaths.	Resignation through sickness.	Resignation through expiry of terms of service or otherwise.	Dismissal or Desertion.	Total Number of Casualties.
Europeans..	164	33	2	1	5	1	9
Indians,....	462	80	6	7	25	3	41
Chinese,....	547	64	4	3	14	55	76
Total,....	1,178	177	12	11	44	59	126

This number includes the Police paid by other Departments also the Engineers, Coxswains and Stokers, but it is exclusive of :—

- 1 Captain Superintendent,
- 1 Deputy Superintendent,
- 1 District Officer,
- 1 Assistant Superintendent,
- 1 Probationer,
- 1 Accountant,
- 1 Clerk and Hindustani Interpreter,
- 5 Clerks,
- 6 Telephone Clerks,
- 89 Messengers and Coolies.

6 Indians and 17 Chinese are employed by Private Firms.

*Strength on the 31st December, 1912.*

.....	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Total.
Present,.....	152	406	539	1,097
Absent on leave, .....	4	32	8	44
Vacancies,.....	8	24	...	32
Total Establishment, ....	164	462	547	1,173

Table IV.

Table showing the total Strength, Expenditure and Revenue of the Police and Fire Brigade Departments for the years 1903 to 1912.

Year	Total Strength.		Expenditure.		Revenue Collected by the Police Force.
	Police Force.	Fire Brigade.	Police Force.	Fire Brigade.	
			\$	\$	\$
1903...	921	97	512,860	25,167	141,491
1904...	993	97	506,008	27,428	133,597
1905...	1,018	97	509,298	28,956	130,873
1906...	1,047	97	515,874	25,499	134,212
1907...	1,048	96	522,406	46,250	138,417
1908...	1,046	96	556,607	31,172	124,288
1909...	1,054	97	564,835	72,227*	125,958
1910...	1,042	103†	583,847	41,548‡	161,420
1911...	1,102	103	586,985	32,421	162,026
1912...	1,196	105	591,076	41,263§	172,397

NOTE.—No revenue is collected by the Fire Brigade.

\* \$44,120 was for the New Floating Engine.

† Crew for the New Floating Engine.

‡ \$9,852 was for the New Floating Engine.

§ \$10,237 was for the Motor Tender.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
FIRE BRIGADE.

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There were 31 Fires and 93 Incipient Fires during the year against 37 and 66 in 1911. Details are given in Table I.

The estimated damage caused by Fires was \$281,095 and by Incipient Fires \$4,732.50 as against \$294,717 and \$1,013.80 in 1911.

The Brigade turned out 52 times during the year (45 in 1911).

2. There was a constant supply of water in the fire mains throughout the year.

3. Three fires occurred in the harbour during the year.

4. There were no prosecutions for arson during the year.

5. There are 32 Despatch Boxes kept in different places in Victoria and 12 in Kowloon, 8 different telephones to which the Police can have access to communicate with the Central Station in the event of a fire, and 16 Street Fire Alarms of which 3 are at the Peak.

6. I enclose copy of a report by the Engineer on the state of Fire Engines (Annexe A).

7. The Fire Alarms were used only once, and in that case by a European Constable on duty.

8. The conduct of the Brigade has been good.

C. MCL. MESSER,  
*Superintendent, Fire Brigade.*

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ANNEXE. A.

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HONGKONG, *15th March, 1913.*

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the Annual Report on the condition of the Government Fire Engines for the year ending 31st December, 1912.

*No. 1 Fire Float.*

This vessel, which has been in service for nearly 3 years, received her annual overhaul in June. During the year, in addition

to attending at various fires and salvages work, the Machinery and Boilers have been regularly tested at monthly drills. Hull, Machinery and Boilers are in good working order.

*No. 2 Fire Float.*

The machinery and boiler of the No. 2 Fire Float have been tested at monthly drills throughout the year. Annual overhaul took place in August, and the Hull, Machinery and Boiler are all in good working order.

*Motor Fire Escape.*

This machine was received from the makers and has been in commission from June last. Since that date it has been frequently exercised and has done good work by its prompt arrival at fires. Motor and equipment are in good working order.

*Land Steamers Nos. 2, 4 and 5. (Central Station.)*

*Land Steamer No. 3. (Yaumati.)*

These engines have all been overhauled during the year, regularly tested at monthly drills for firemen and drivers, and are in good working order.

All the Manual Engines and Gear, Hose Reels, Ladders, Supply Carts, etc., have been kept in repair and are now in good working order.

*Fire Alarms (13 Points).*

The Fire Alarms are in good order, and same are tested daily.

I have. &c.,

ROBT. HUNTER,  
*Acting Engineer, Fire Brigade.*

Hon. Mr. C. McI. MESSER,  
Superintendent, Fire Brigade.

ANNEXE B.

STRENGTH OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.

	<i>European. Chinese.</i>	
Superintendent, - - - - -	1	—
Deputy Superintendent, - - - - -	1	—
Assistant Superintendents, - - - - -	2	—
Engineer, - - - - -	1	—
Assistant Engineer and Station Officer, -	1	—
Clerk, - - - - -	—	1
Engine Drivers, - - - - -	5	2
Assistant Engine Drivers, - - - - -	3	—
Fitter, - - - - -	—	1
Blacksmith, - - - - -	—	1
Carpenter, - - - - -	—	1
Stokers, - - - - -	—	5
Sailmaker, - - - - -	—	1
Overseers of Water Works, - - - - -	2	—
Inspector of Dangerous Goods, - - - - -	1	—
Assistant to Do., - - - - -	—	1
Foremen, - - - - -	3	—
Assistant Foremen, - - - - -	4	—
Firemen, - - - - -	22	28
Interpreters, - - - - -	1	3

*Floating Engines.*

Foremen and Engine Drivers, - - - - -	2	—
Chief Engineer, - - - - -	—	1
Engine Drivers, - - - - -	—	2
Coxswains, - - - - -	—	2
Stokers, - - - - -	—	3
Seamen, - - - - -	—	4
	<hr/>	
Total, 1912, - - - - -	49	56
	<hr/>	
Total, 1911, - - - - -	48	55
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**Table I.**  
*Fires during the year 1912.*

No.	Date.	Time.	Situation of Fire.	No. of Buildings Destroyed.		Damage	Cause.
				Wholly.	Partly.		
1	Jan. 2nd	10.45 p.m.	A matchbox west of Kennedy Town Hospital, .....	1 matchbox	...	\$ 2,000	Capsize of an oil lamp.
2	" 14th	1.35 a.m.	House No. 72 Ko Shing Street, .....	...	1	8,400	Overheating of a drying pan.
3	" 22nd	10.30 p.m.	Do. 33 Ngau Shi Wan, ..	1	...	300	Unknown.
4	Feb. 3rd	12.20 a.m.	Do. 416 Queen's Road West, .....	1	...	1,600	Overheating of kitchen flues.
5	" 3rd	7.50 p.m.	Do. 113 Wuhn Street, Hunghom, .....	...	1	800	Unknown.
6	" 10th	7.15 a.m.	Do. 56 Jervois Street, ..	...	1	4,500	Do.
7	" 11th	5.40 a.m.	Do. 23 Lower Lascar Row, .....	25	13	172,450	Do.
8	" 15th	6.10 a.m.	Do. 47 Sheung Cheong Wai, Ping Shan, .....	1	...	150	Do.
9	Mar. 19th	2.40 a.m.	On board S.S. <i>Paul Beau</i> in Victoria Harbour, .....	...	...	500	Do.
10	" 19th	3.00 p.m.	On board Lighter <i>Ysat Sze</i> in Victoria Harbour, .....	...	...	1,200	Spontaneous combustion.
11	June 20th	3.15 a.m.	House No. 123 Connaught Road West, .....	1	...	20,000	Unknown.
12	July 20th	7.00 p.m.	House No. 73 Kowloon City Road, .....	1	...	1,400	Capsize of a kerosine lamp.

**Table I,—Continued.**

No.	Date.	Time.	Situation of Fire.	No. of Buildings Destroyed.		Damage.	Cause.
				Wholly.	Partly.		
13	July 25th	8.15 a.m.	A. S. Watson & Co's. Wharf at Whitfield,.....	...	...	\$ 700	A quantity of petroleum floating in the harbour ignited and set fire to the wharf.
14	Aug. 26th	6.15 a.m.	No. 2 Sha Tsoi Village, Tsun Wan,.....	...	1	50	Sparks from cook-house.
15	Sept. 3rd	3.00 p.m.	Godown, Blackhead & Co's. Soapworks, Shaun Ki Wan,.....	...	...	22,000	Spontaneous combustion.
16	" 14th	10.30 a.m.	Fishing Shed on the foreshore near Lung Ku Tau, Ping Shan,.....	1 matched.	...	350	Unknown.
17	" 17th	1.00 a.m.	Cow House at No. 387 Sheung Shui,.....	...	1	100	Some live ashes igniting dried grass.
18	Oct. 5th	2.35 p.m.	House No. 89 Mong Po Ting Village, Shaun Shui Po,.....	...	1	100	Some grass near the fireplace caught fire.
19	" 11th	6.15 a.m.	Sanitary Board Contractor's watsched at Shaun Ki Wan,.....	...	...	45	Overburning of a lamp.
20	" 13th	11.15 a.m.	Matched opposite Pokfulam Dairy Farm,.....	7 matcheds	...	250	A spark from an adjoining cook-house.
21	" 13th	12.55 a.m.	House No. 66 Bonham Strand,.....	1	2	41,600	Unknown.
22	Nov. 6th	10.08 p.m.	House No. 44 Lyndhurst Terrace,.....	...	1	300	Overheating of cook-house chimney.
23	" 21st	10.00 a.m.	Matched at Cheung Chau,.....	1 matched.	...	500	Unknown.
24	" 21st	10.25 a.m.	On board Cargo Boat No. 1472v in Victoria Harbour,.....	...	...	700	Do.
25	" 22nd	6.10 p.m.	Matched at Tai Po,.....	1 matched.	...	250	Do.

Table I,—Continued.

No.	Date.	Time.	Situation of Fire.	No. of Buildings Destroyed.		Damage.	Cause.
				Wholly.	Partly.		
26	Nov. 22nd	4.00 p.m.	Latrine at Sha Tau Kok .....	1	1	\$ 230	Unknown.
27	" 22nd	10.00 p.m.	Matshed at Pokfulam, .....	2 matsheds.	...	50	Do.
28	Dec. 10th	6.00 a.m.	Matshed at Portland Street, Yau Ma Tei, .....	1 matshed.	..	200	Do.
29	" 10th	7.00 p.m.	House No. 49 San Tin Village, .....	1	...	55	Exploding of a kerosine lamp.
30	" 10th	8.20 p.m.	Pig Sty at Wong Nei Chung, .....	1 matshed.	...	25	Unknown.
31	" 28th	9.00 p.m.	House No. 3 Fo Kong Village, .....	...	1	300	Accident.
						\$ 281,095	